

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 05672 131516Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02
/071 W

----- 110406 /47

R 131334Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3645
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS BERN 5672

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT SZ NL
SUBJ: ARREST OF DUTCH ART COLLECTOR PIETER MENTEN IN SWITZERLAND
ON DEC 6

REF: BERN 5586

1. ACCORDING TO SWISS PRESS REPORTS MENTEN HAD DENIED PARTICIPATION IN EXECUTIONS IN POLAND DURING WW II TO ZURICH POLICE. HE STATED HE HAD NOT BEEN IN PODHORIC SINCE SEP 1939. WITH REGARD TO DEATHS OF JEWS AT LEMBERG, MENTEN CLAIMED HE HAD NOT BEEN THERE FOR MORE THAN 5 DAYS WHILE A PRISONER OF THE SS. HE DENIED BELONGING TO THE STAFF OF SS GEN SCHOENGARTH. COMMENTING ON HIS FLIGHT TO SWITZERLAND, MENTEN SAID HE COULD NOT OBTAIN A FAIR HEARING IN A NETHERLANDS COURT, DUE TO THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM IN THE PRESS. HE SAID HIS ATTEMPTED SUICIDE WAS DUE TO PANIC AT THE SIGHT OF THE NETHERLANDS POLICE. HIS LAWYER HAS ASKED JUSTICE MINISTER FURGLER TO GIVE MENTEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW AND RESPOND TO THE DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FRIDAY BY THE NETHERLANDS FEDERAL DEPT OF JUSTICE.

2. THE FEDERAL COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THE MENTEN CASE TODAY, DEC 13. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT A DECISION ON EXPULSION WILL BE TAKEN AT THAT TIME. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE THAT IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, WAR CRIMES, JEWS, ARRESTS, ALLEGATIONS, WORLD WAR II, EXECUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERN05672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760459-0390
From: BERN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761246/aaaabnog.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BERN 5586
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <17 AUG 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF DUTCH ART COLLECTOR PIETER MENTEN IN SWITZERLAND ON DEC 6
TAGS: PINT, SZ, NL, PL, (MENTEN, PIETER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006